Direct Investment ceiling from 49 per cent to 74 percent in the Telecom Sector', has only been issued on 03.11.2005.

(c) As per the aforesaid Press Note, the majority Directors on the Board including Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall be resident Indian citizens, enforced through licence agreement.

Quality of reception of mobile phones

172 SHRI THENNALAG. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
DR. MAM. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quality of reception of mobile phones in our country is below international standard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve this essential service by improving the quality of reception of mobile phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHAMAD): (a) and (b) Quality of reception of mobile phones is comparable to international standards. However, due to tremendous growth during the last two years, requiring frequent expansions, quality of services sometimes is below the QoS norms fixed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

(c) The mobile services providers are taking necessary step to install additional Base Transceiver Station (BTS) and other related equipment to provide better coverage and prescribed Quality of Services (QoS) in the areas where the bench marks are not being met.

Action against Internet service providers

173. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Internet service providers charge subscribers for value additions without obtaining their explicit consent; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHAMAD): (a) and (b) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997, as amended, tariffs for telecom services are under the purview of TRAI. As per information received from TRAI, one Internet service provider had reported a tariff plan for dial-up services providing for charging a value addition from the customer based on consent by default. Keeping in view the interest of the consumers, the Authority issues a direction on 12th September, 2005 to all Internet Service Providers (ISP) that no chargeable service or optional packs shall be provided to a customer without his explicit consent and any service, which was earlier being provided free of charge, shall not be made chargeable without the explicit consent of the customer. No instance of any ISP charging subscribers in violation of this direction has come to the notice of the Authority.

Promotion of WLL services

174. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P.GOYAL: will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that fixed services could now be provided only through wireline and through WLL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that it is prohibitive to lay wireline network in rural areas, hilly areas and very congested urban centres; and

(d) if so, the reasons for which Government are not promoting WLL technology for the last mile connection to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHAMAD): (a) and (b) In order to ensure that march of technology is not missued or abused by subscribers or service providers, it was clarified that the terminal used for fixed wireless services should be strictly confined to the premises of the subscriber where the telephone connection is registered and wherever such restriction cannot be imposed, it is to be treated as Limited Mobile feature for all purposes which *inter-alia* includes Numbering Plan. Interconnection Usage Charges etc.